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REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Service

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WANTS A FAST TRIP HOME

Lt. Willis E. Johnston, Jr., reports he's in the Philippines and has had five different APO numbers within three months. He says that becomes monotonous.....Both Christmas and New Years he spent on a boat. "As far as I'm concerned," he states, "they can have the ocean and all the ships thereon --- 78 days at sea is enough for me. Of course, I'd like to reserve ONE ship to come home on, if I can't grab a C-54 or something even faster....."

"The Philippines are a very definite improvement over New Guinea and the Dutch East Indies. The Filipinos are intelligent, industrious, and clean.....our welcome here has been genuine. I have made many friends among the Philippine Scouts most of whom have been acting as guerilla forces in the mountains for 3 years. Some of them made the infamous 'March of Death' from Bataan, and have stories to tell which are not pleasant."

SHIPS THAT PASS AT SEA

E. C. Meyer, CEM, writes from aboard the USS Apollo how fate tossed his ship and that of chief electrician's mate W. I. Treadway's, USS A.R.D., within a stone's throw of each other. (But of course there weren't any stones there.) Later on, they saw each other again.

One paragraph of his letter says, "The mess boy just set a dish of beautiful red apples before me which would cost you 10¢ apiece. I can have all I want for nothing --- the only catch is that I have to be out here a good many thousand miles from St. Louis to qualify!"

HE CROSSED THE PEMAGEN BRIDGE

Phil Widman has been in the thick of things. His APO is different now because he is in the First Army. He says, "We have recovered from Runstedt's December counter-attack --- are knocking hell out of the Germans --- were the first to cross the Rhine at Remagen bridge --- and everything looks like it is just a question of a few months --- if the Germans want to be stubborn about it!"

ENJOYS A REAL FIGHTING OUTFIT

Sol Silverman pauses between battles in Europe long enough to tell us, "It's been quite some time since I received a copy of Roll CallI imagine the last 5 or 6 issues are still following me around Europe, but I have hopes they'll reach me."

"I'm feeling fine and am in the best of spirits since joining a real.....fighting outfit with the 1st U. S. Army. The Germans I've seen so far are not quite the supermen they have built themselves up to be. I hope it won't be too long before they realize it and abandon an apparently hopeless cause."

DENOUNCES DEHYDRATED FOODS

Sgt. James G. Denton would like to get in on some honest-to-goodness food again. "These dehydrated foods," he says, "are monotonous day after day, and are not conducive to a hearty appetite."

"The Roll Call and Span I received regularly for some time, but in the last couple of months my subscription seems to have expired." (He's with an Engineer Combat Battalion with a San Francisco APO).

ANYBODY HERE SEEN KELLEY?

When last heard from, Lt. Harold W. Kelley was in Florida, but a later report had him in California. The nature of his work is such as to require his presence in many places. The Roll Call doesn't feel so bad about missing out on news from him when it is understood that not even his promotions can catch up with him --- that his Majority is due him, but where is Kelley? If anybody has any information about this Signal Corps specialist, please inform the Roll Call.

A SCATTERED TRIO HEARD FROM

Before the war, Anita Johnson, Ralph Grueb-meyer, and Art Korpi all worked in Central Files. Came Pearl Harbor and eventually all

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COLUMN WRITE!

From W. F. Orndoff, SK 3/c, comes this short note written before he left Camp Bradford, Norfolk, "Received Harry Oswald's address just in time to see him only once. Sure had a nice visit. Hope the papers (Roll Call and Span) keep on coming.".....Georgia Kick hears from a friend who knows T/Sgt Thomas T. Ronan. They work together in the same office (Transportation) somewhere in the European theatre of operations.....There's the air of old New England about Ensign W. O. Oeltjen's letter from Centerville, Mass., when he says, "We (including Eleanor and little Freddie) are pretty well settled as Cape Codders -- the winters are much easier to take than those in Maine. The Cape has unusual weather -- so sudden from cold to warm and the hurricane of last year. People are still cleaning up the wreckage. -- My work at present is Div. officer for the radio/radar shops. Since we are maintaining planes at an operational training base, I do my bit to try and keep the related gear in operating condition. When a plane is 'down' because of radio trouble, my job is like that of an REA project manager when a consumer member calls in that his lights are out and service is wanted in a hurry.".....New in Army life is Pvt. Lorance Cates who writes from Ft. Sill to say he hasn't been classified as to duties yet. He believes he'd like army life if he weren't a married man, but he misses his family so much. Of Oklahoma he says, "There's a lot of red soil here, The skies are a clear blue and a soft wind blowing from the west reminds me of the good old Montana days.".....Lt. (jg) Raynor H. Severine somewhere in the Marianas wants to get in touch with any other REA'ers who might be in his vicinity. He is with an advanced submarine base and says, "My newest assignment is to establish and operate a special type of school in the radar field (also radio) for submarine officers and crews. It is located at one of their Rest and Recuperative camps where they have mounted a midget Jap sub for a 'center piece'".....Many will share with L. A. Thomas, Technical Standards, his pride over the awarding of the Bronze Star to his son, Capt. Herriek M. Thomas. Capt. Thomas is with the medical corps where "his surgical skill and untiring efforts saved the lives of many of our wounded -- and his outstanding professional ability and selfless devotion to our wounded" won him this citation.....Sgt. Wm. B. Loving is stationed near all that gold bullion at Ft. Knox.....Lt. Bruce O. Watkins is in the South

Pacific. He writes, "There were a lot of guerillas with all sorts of guns and knives. A lot of them had bolo knives. Very nasty looking. Others had GI knives. Practically everyone had a knife of some kind, including the soldiers and sailors -- The dwellings were mostly platforms on stilts with straw woven sides and a straw roof full of holes. Some were in such a state of disrepair that they looked like a lot of kindling wood propped up -- Cock fighting is great sport, and there are many rings where much betting takes place. Where we went it was mighty filthy. The mud was terrific -- sometimes being in gooey pools a foot deep. So we walked a high trot, holding pants up, and shying away from passing trucks.".....Capt. Arnold Sukrow, an old-timer in REA and last with the Information Division, stopped in recently enroute from Dayton, Ohio, to Key Field, Meridian, Miss., where he is civilian personnel officer. He mentioned having talked with Lt.Col. Fred Vreeland and Capt. Louis Stevens at Dayton.....Capt. C. L. Kelchner's recent letter to Roll Call says, "I've been in Marseille since early in December. My company operated a large ammunition railhead for about 2½ months, and now we're at a large ammunition depot outside Marseille. This city is noted for being one of the 'dens of sin' of the world. It certainly lives up to its name -- black market, alluring and beautiful women, nearly every nationality in the world represented here. Never a dull moment!".....Hospitalized Charlie Cox writes to various friends but tells little about himself. To one he mentioned jaundice as his trouble. To another he said that after a month in the hospital he finds the beds, sheets, and food so good compared to battlefield accommodations. Charlie fought on the Anzio beach-head.....Another hospitalized one is Pvt. Johnny Tvelis who tells his A&L gang, "Once again I am writing from an Army hospital. Somehow or other the Jerries managed to manufacture a slug or two with my number on them and deliver them into my right arm. I don't think it will amount to anything too serious, but for the time being my right arm is rather useless. One of the boys in the hospital with me has kindly offered to write this letter for me.".....Lt. David Askegaard liked the swimming in the Netherland Indies, but otherwise prefers the Philippines. The part where he is he describes as "rather dry, and except for a few palm trees, hardly what you'd expect for a tropical area. Those

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COLUMN WRITE!

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who know Texas say it's much like that state." He invites George Dodrill to join them for a night with such promises as, "We have an empty cot and could get you a mosquito bar. You could put your flight bag anywhere on the dirt floor. Tentmates will be a Coast Artillery (ack,ack) major, a Navy lieutenant, and myself. If there comes an alert, don't get into an uproar. We haven't bothered to dig any fox holes. There'll be no sheets or mattress, but you'll sleep all right after your trip up -- Canned salmon, dehydrated potatoes, and beets with bread and cold tea will be your food....." Though with the Air Forces, Askegaard gives much praise to the Infantry. He said the Infantry boys "constituted a mighty thin, but wholly adequate, barrier between us poor defenseless officers and the Nips some 1,000 yards away."Pvt. Lou Roland has been visiting in Paris. He says springtime there is a really wonderful affair -- describes sitting in the sun at sidewalk cafes, and the flowers and parks there. But he misses the cherry blossoms of WashingtonLt. (jg) N. M. Levinson writes a breezy letter from the Aleutians. He makes it even breezier by talking about storms, storms, and still more storms. His rambling comments touch on his recent attempts at bowling, the weather, hoping to be back in the States by next November, praise for the Roll Call, plans to be a Boy Scout patrol leader, and a device about which he says, "For a small fee I'll be happy to send you the plans of the Levinson Hi Fi super-doooper hotsy tots squawk box.....I have been doing right well with it, except my Beethoven's 3rd Symphony is beginning to wear out; also my speaker is beginning to show signs of hardening of the arteries.".....Navy Lt. J. Walter Carpenter dropped in the office recently. He was on his way back to Galveston from a short visit with his family in Virginia. Lt. Carpenter is now in the Office of Assistant to Industrial Manager, 8th Naval District at Galveston where his work is in connection with ship allocations before they go into serviceSamuel E. Hoss, now chief specialist in Naval Communications, made a trip through several southern states recently. Back at his home base (New Orleans) he writes us he got a big kick out of "watching the REA poles go by" while on that trip. He had hoped to hit St. Louis but that didn't pan out.....At last some word from Cpl. F. R. George who tells us by V-mail that "I have crossed France and am now in Germany. REA is still very popular. I saw

a write-up about it in our Stars and Stripes recently. My line of work is radio operation. Thanks for the Roll Call and keep it coming. Say hello to the Management Division for me."Capt. Herbert A. Ide's recent letter tells about moving his family to a farm house that has modern plumbing, refrigeration, an electric stove, and power furnished by the Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative. He's at Wright Field..... Major Erwin M. Graham, Jr., writes about three events in his life: He's been sent overseas; he's been promoted; and he's a father now!..... Lt. J. R. Oberholtzer, whose home base is Eatontown, close to Ft. Monmouth, N. J., has been transferred from the Signal Corps to the Air Corps. His work, radar, remains the same but under new management....."I've been traveling around some since writing the last time," states Lt. James M. McCutcheon of the Marine Corps now stationed in North Carolina. "I have no fixed address and am sort of shuttling back and forth up and down the East Coast." He's busy with some new "gear" just developed and now being manufactured, but it's secret..... Lt. Whitney N. Matthews, USMCR, writes he's now working on technical testing in California after plenty of fighting in the Pacific. He's an instructor in a radar training shop. Recently he enjoyed a visit from Lt. (jg) Knoland G. Plucknett and wife.....Ensign George M. Scherrer paid REA a visit recently as he was enroute from Massachusetts, where he's been attending M.I.T., to Alabama. With his college instruction over, he expects to be sent on sea duty shortly.....Robert F. Howell entered the Navy March 17; John K. Taylor on March 23; and Barbara A. Gehres entered the Marine Corps April 1.

HERE TO THERE DEPARTMENT: Pvt. Sol Silverman to APO #9, New York; Ensign W. O. Oeltjen, Centerville, Cape Cod, Mass.; Pvt. Lorance E. Cates, Ft. Sill; Pvt. Art Korpi to APO 75, San Francisco; Sgt. Ralph Gruetmeyer, APO 258, New York; Lt. James M. McCutchen, Morehead City, N.C.; Pvt. Philip Widman changes his NY APO to 230; Capt. C. L. Kelchner, APO changed to 772; Lt. (jg) Raynor H. Severine, FPO changed to Navy #926; Lt. Joel M. Babb, APO 350, New York; W. F. Crndoff, SK 3/c to Navy Pier, Chicago; Major Erwin M. Graham, Jr., APO 757, New York; Sgt. John H. Hanson, Medical Depot, St. Louis; Cpl. Gilbert A. Jones to Pueblo, Colo.; Robert F. Howell, AS, Great Lakes; E. C. Meyer, CEM, USS Apollo, FPO, San Francisco; Cpl. Theodore

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SCATTERED TRIO

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three entered military service. This issue the "Roll Call" features letters from this trio, scattered now, according to the dictates of war, to different quarters of the globe.

Capt. Anita Johnson, the first from REA ranks to join with the WAC, is currently stationed at Sioux City, Ia. Several good breaks have come her way lately. She managed to find a car to buy; leave has been granted her for a furlough home when the kid brother comes before sailing across; and she's been promoted!

Pvt. Art Korpi breaks a long silence by writing to say the wonderful warm weather of the Philippines really agrees with him. Of his work he says, "Ever since I left New Guinea I've been working with General Headquarters as a teletype maintenance man, which is nothing to brag about for I'm learning it the hard way. I went to school in nearly every line in the Signal Corps except that. But I like the mechanical line of work, so I enjoy it. The only trouble is that there's too darn much brass around so a dumb private like me feels out of place. I'd feel more at home in the REA files lifting cabinets around."

Cpl. Ralph Gruebmeier (somewhere in Holland) writes, "Since you last heard from me I've taken quite an extensive tour at Uncle Sam's expense. Right now I am in the land of windmills and tulips although I have seen very few of either.....We were first stationed in England. While there I had the opportunity of visiting London twice. We took France by storm. I didn't get to visit their capitol..... I visited Metz, however, the city Gen. Patton brought into the headlines. So far I have found the Dutch people more amiable and hospitable than any of the others with whom we were associated."

"Even though Holland doesn't seem to be torn up as badly as France, the people were forced to turn over much of their materials and equipment to the rampaging Heinies. One of the old gentlemen with whom we were staying told us of how the Germans came in and took whatever they wanted by the point of a gun. He was showing us the tea which he had to smoke in his pipe before we came along. I also had the privilege of giving the lady of the house an orange one day. She told me it was the first she had seen in four years."

The Technical Standards picture gallery is incomplete. Will Lt. Bruce Bingham, S/Sgt. (Cont'd opposite)

THE MARINES DO IT NOW

After almost three years with the USMC Equipment Board, Major Joseph O'Brien has at last found enough leisure to sit quietly and write some letters to his friends. This spare time came on board ship as the Major was being sent on a special overseas assignment. Of his leisure he remarks, "Of course this isn't going to last very long. I'm not being sent out here for my health!" But his assignment is most interesting, he says, and one he has been advocating for a long time.

He had hoped to stop in St. Louis as he went westward across the continent by train, but "the Marine Corps doesn't work that way", he explains. "At one-thirty one afternoon we were told by telephone from headquarters that we would leave by plane at 10 p.m. the same day! It's things like that which give rise to the expression: 'The Marine Corps never does anything right --- it does it NOW!'" (They do things right, too, Editor).

MAN WITH MANY DUTIES

Warrant Officer Sam Schneider admits he's one of our less prolific correspondents, writing only once or twice a year. Excerpts from his latest bi-annual message tell us, "There isn't very much in the way of news about myself that I can tell you. The war has by-passed us out here (Netherland East Indies) for the time being and life is rather routine and unexciting (no strong complaints in that connection, however).....Last year in New Guinea I almost ran into Dave Cohen, but missed him by several hours. That was the closest I've come to making contact with REA since coming overseas in 1943.....My principal duty is that of personnel officer and assistant adjutant of the Brigade; in addition I am also postal, war bond, and life insurance officer."

COLUMN WRITE!

(Cont'd)

A. Baroody to APO 939, Seattle; Lt. W. E. Johnston, Jr., to APO 74, San Francisco; Major Joseph E. O'Brien to USS Riverside, FPO (APA-102), San Francisco; John K. Taylor, Greer Lakes; and Pvt. J. J. Tvelia to APO 68, New York.

GOING UP

Sgt. Ralph Gruebmeier; Lt. James M. McCutchen; Major Erwin M. Graham, Jr.; Sgt. John H. Hanson; Cpl. Gilbert A. Jones; Samuel E. Hoss CSP (Q) (RP); Major Joseph E. O'Brien; and Capt. Anita Johnson.

Charlotte Landry, Pvt. Larry Cates, and Lt. Walter Carpenter remember to send in their photos as soon as convenient?